

**REMARKS**

The Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claim 3 is cancelled herein without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter set forth therein. Claim 6 was previously cancelled. Claims 1, 2, 4, and 5 are pending. Independent claims 1 and 4 amended. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider the rejections in view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein.

**Allowable Subject Matter / Objections to the Claims**

The Examiner states that claims 3-5 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the objections and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims;

As indicated below, independent claim 1 has been amended to include the allowable subject matter of objected-to claim 3 and to address the objection pointed out by the Examiner. In addition, independent claim 4 has been amended to address the objection pointed out by the Examiner.

Therefore, independent claims 1 and 4 are in condition for allowance.

**Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)**

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Chintawongvanich, US 6,427,531 in view of {one of Stephens US 2002/0075183 and Parker} and one of {Caballero, US 3,392,394 and Lorch Microwave}. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Although not conceding the appropriateness of the Examiner's rejection, but merely to advance the prosecution of the present application, objected-to claim 3 has been cancelled and the subject matter has been added to independent claim 1. In view of the amendments to independent claim 1, the Examiner's rejection based on 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) has been obviated.

**No Prosecution History Estoppel**

Independent claim 4 has been amended to merely to address the objection. The subject matter of claim 3 has been added to independent claim 1. No prosecution history estoppel would apply to the interpretation of the limitations set forth in claims 1 and 4 and the claims that depend therefrom in view of the fact that this subject matter has been continuously presented since the original filing date of the present application.

*Application No. 10/539,050*  
*Amendment dated December 27, 2006*  
*Reply to Office Action of September 27, 2006*

*Docket No. 0365-0629PUS1*  
*Art Unit: 3662*  
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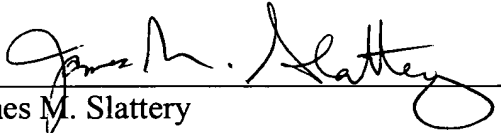
**CONCLUSION**

All of the stated grounds of rejection have been properly traversed, accommodated, or rendered moot. It is believed that a full and complete response has been made to the outstanding Office Action, and that the present application is in condition for allowance.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, he is invited to telephone Carl T. Thomsen (Reg. No. 50,786) at (703) 208-4030 Direct Line.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.17, particularly extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

By   
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